

[illegible]

a camera section including multiple cameras and image data cutdown means, the image data cutdown means reducing the amount of original image data representing camera images captured by the multiple cameras, the camera section outputting the reduced image data;

an image processing section, which receives the reduced image data through the transmission path and produces a synthesized image from the reduced image data,

wherein the camera section or the image processing section includes cutdown mode selecting means for selecting a cutdown mode, in which the original image data for use in image synthesis has its amount cut down, for the image data cut-down means in accordance with a correspondence between the synthesized and camera images.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the image processing section selectively produces any of multiple types of synthesized images and changes the types of the synthesized images to be produced, and

wherein the shutdown mode selecting means changes the shutdown modes according to the type of the synthesized image to

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the original image data is read out from each said camera in a controllable order, and

wherein the camera section or the image processing section comprises a readout controller for controlling the order, in which the original image data representing each said camera image for use in the image synthesis is read out, in compliance with the cutdown mode selected by the cutdown mode selecting means.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the cameras are mounted on a vehicle to capture images of the vehicle's surroundings.

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